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Agricultural Memorandum No. 359

A Climatic Parameter for Winter Cereal Sowing

L P Smith

Agricultural Memorandum No. 356 showed the close relationship between return-to-capacity dates and acreage of wheat. The return dates can be related to the risks of early return to capacity as follows:-

<u>Mean Return Date</u>	<u>Frequency (years in 10) of return before the end of</u>	
	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Dec 8	$\frac{1}{2}$	2
Nov 23	1	3
Nov 3	2	5

Assuming that return-to-capacity-date is a limiting factor in autumn sowing, these return dates can be used to divide the county into areas which are suitable or not, using the following categories

Good	(Dec 8 onwards)
Moderate	(Nov 23 - Dec 7)
Indifferent	(Nov 3 - 22)
Poor	(Before Nov 3)

These dates are translated into annual average rainfalls (1916-1950) in the following table, using regressions previously established for the several areas.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Category</u>			
	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Indifferent</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Good</u>
NORTH	27.2 or above	27.1 - 25.1	25.0 - 23.2	23.1 or below
MIDLANDS	27.9 or above	27.8 - 23.5	23.4 or below	Nil
EAST	30.7 or above	30.6 - 26.5	26.4 - 23.2	23.1 or below
SOUTHEAST	31.1 or above	31.0 - 26.2	26.1 - 22.5	22.4 or below
SOUTHWEST	30.1 or above	30.0 or below	Nil	Nil
WALES	28.8 or above	28.7 or below	Nil	Nil

Bracknell
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